

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, across the county, Americans are looking for some signs. Signs of progress. Signs of leadership. Signs of decency. Unfortunately, this is still the only sign they see. "Closed." Why? Simple. Because of the close-minded radical right—Members who refuse to see any side to this issue other than their own.

But it is not just their minds that are closed. The Gingrich Republicans have closed their eyes, too. They close their eyes to the pain that their gutless gamesmanship has caused.

Seniors and children are denied nutrition programs, unemployed workers can not get benefits, and all the GOP does is talk about "holding the President's feet to the fire." Meanwhile, innocent Americans huddle around a fire to keep warm.

Yes—this GOP majority has opened its backrooms to big business lobbyists to help them write new laws. But it closes the door on hardworking Government employees who implement and enforce those laws.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and your side of the aisle, to open up our minds, and say "Yes, we are open." Open the Government, now.

A CLEAR MISSION

(Mr. FRISA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRISA. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today I walked into this great House as a brandnew Member of Congress representing Long Island, NY. When I did that, I had one mission 1 year ago, and that was to do things differently, to get away from the rhetoric and the empty words that really are not truthful.

The simple fact is, we have done our job. The President does not like it. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle certainly do not like it.

Here is the result of our work product. We promised a balanced budget; we delivered it. Here it is. Mr. Speaker, anyone in this country who would like to get a copy of this real budget, call my office, 202-225-5516; I will send you one.

If you would like to see the President's alternative balanced budget, you do not have to call. You can see it right here. You cannot really see it, because it does not exist.

The President of the United States has not done his job. Though he has done a lot of yakking, and he has done a lot of blabbing; he has not rolled up his sleeves and done the real work and put numbers on the table.

UTAH CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF STATEHOOD

(Mr. ORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I join my fellow Utahns in celebrating

Utah's Statehood Centennial. One hundred years ago, on January 4, 1896, my home State of Utah became the 45th State in the Union.

Utah had spent nearly 50 years attempting to become a State, and had been turned down six times by 1896. But the patriotic and pioneering spirit of those who settled in the Utah territory prevailed, and the news of the long sought after statehood was received with great rejoicing and enthusiasm as thousands of citizens participated in parades and celebrations on that cold January morning, celebrations being reenacted in Utah today.

Over the past 100 years, citizens of Utah have served our great Nation with distinction through military, government, civic, and religious activities.

Today, Utah enjoys the strongest economy and is among the most rapidly growing States in the Nation. It is without prejudice that we declare Utah to be the greatest place on Earth.

It is my honor to serve the people of Utah in this, the people's House of Representatives. Today, we in the Congress honor the contributions which Utahns have made to our Nation over the past century and look forward with great anticipation to the opportunities of service to one another in the next century.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 393

Mr. ZIMMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 393.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LA HOOD) Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a privileged motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. REGULA moves to discharge the Committee on Appropriations from further consideration of the veto message on the bill (H.R. 1977) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. REGULA] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. YATES].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the motion to discharge the Committee on Appropriations from further consideration of the veto message of the Presi-

dent to the bill H.R. 1977 and on the veto message itself, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, today we have an opportunity to correct a serious problem, and that is the lack of access to the Nation's treasures that result from the veto by the President of the Interior appropriations bill.

It is a good bill. We worked hard on it on both sides of the aisle. It was re-committed twice to the conference to take care of the problems of the Tongass to satisfy the environmental concerns and also to take care of the need for a mining moratorium. Those issues were addressed, and I think out of the give and take of the conference and the recommitments, we arrived at a good bill, a bill that is fair and a bill that is nonpartisan.

There are many projects that need to be finished that were in Members' districts, both Republican and Democrat. The parks, of course, serve all of the people of the United States, as well as do the cultural institutions downtown.

I want to say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that on December 20, 89 Members of the minority voted to override the President on securities litigation reform. That is a pretty esoteric bill, and I am going to borrow a phrase from my good friends on the other side of the aisle and say that was an override for the rich, because people involved in securities are pretty much well-to-do people; they certainly are not the average American.

They found it in their hearts to override the President's veto on a bill with a very narrow constituency, a bill that will be beneficial to a limited number of people.

Today we are asking my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us in voting to override a bill that affects 260 million Americans. This is an override for the people, and I would hope that the 89 Members of the other party that voted to override the President on a very sophisticated piece of legislation, affecting only a handful of Americans relatively, certainly would want to do the same for the 260 million Americans that want access to the treasures of this Nation.

Today we have an opportunity to open the facilities that Americans care about, to give them an opportunity if they come to the Nation's Capital to visit the Vermeer exhibit, one of the world's great treasures, at the National Gallery, which is scheduled to leave, I think, February 11, a very limited opportunity of time; an opportunity to see the marvelous exhibits at the Smithsonian; an opportunity for sportsmen that like to hunt ducks that are coming down the flyways and are stopping at the various facilities, one